

Oregon Board of Health Gives Advice In Prevention of Accidental Poisoning

In Oregon last year, there were 610 reported cases of accidental poisonings with most of them occurring among children under five years of age. These poisonings resulted in 27 unnecessary deaths, according to the State Board of Health.

These figures from records of the Oregon Poison Control Registry show that most accidental poisonings result from carelessness in supervision of youngsters, according to Carl G. Ashley, M.D., director of the registry.

By far the largest number of poisonings result from the ingestion of internal medicines taken accidentally or in excess amounts. Colored baby aspirin appears to be the most dangerous product. Household preparations such as bleach, disinfectants, lye and detergents account for the next largest number of cases.

Organizations Unite

To help combat this needless loss of life and suffering, the Oregon Poison Control Registry was organized in 1957 under the joint sponsorship of the University of Oregon Medical school, the Oregon Medical association and the Oregon State Board of Health. Its primary aim is to prevent accidental poisoning.

An important part of the registry's work is to provide a 24-hour telephone information service to physicians with accurate information concerning the toxic content of various commercial and pharmaceutical products and to give suggestions regarding acceptable antidotes, Dr. Ashley said.

All cases of accidental poisoning referred to the consultation center as well as all cases reported by physicians are coded. Information gained is used in promoting educational programs in prevention of poisoning.

Treatment Centers Established

The registry assists participating hospitals throughout the state in setting up poison treatment centers to assist the general public and private physicians. Each hospital has received a prepared list of antidotes and drugs for treatment of poisoning cases together with suggested references.

Approximately 20 hospitals are making use of the service.

Primary objective of the registry is education in prevention. Excellent education materials and films are available for professional and general audiences.

National Poison Control Week is being observed March 14-20 to spotlight the dangers of drugs, chemicals and common household substances. These precautions are issued by the Oregon Poison Control Registry:

Seven Precautions Listed

1. Store all medicines in locked containers.
2. Never say to a child that medicine is "candy" . . . It may lead the child to take an overdose at the first opportunity.
3. Try to avoid taking medicine in the presence of children . . . They love to imitate and play doctor and nurse.
4. Remove unused medicines from cabinets and flush them down the toilet where they cannot be reached by others.
5. Use drugs only for the person for whom they were prescribed.
6. When medicines are still in use, always return them to the cabinet—never leave them on a shelf, furniture or other place where a child may get hold of them, even by climbing: In over 60 percent of children under five years of age poisoned by medicines and reported to the Poison Control Registry, the medicines had not been returned to their proper place.
7. If you suspect that a child has swallowed a possibly poisonous medicine, call a doctor immediately. Don't wait for signs of sickness to appear. It might be too late.

VISIT IN WASHINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. John Price and family left late last week for Connell, Wash., where they were joined by their daughter, Connie, and drove on to Grandview to spend the weekend.

They visited Mrs. Price's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Ford; her brothers, Edward and Ralph Ford and their families. Other weekend guests in the parental home were Mrs. Price's sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown and family of Othello, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith and boys of Yakima. Also joining the family was another brother, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ford of Superior, Wis., and an uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Clarke of Holyoke, Minn.

The Prices went back to Connell Monday, left Connie and other members of the family returned that afternoon to their home in Nyssa.

VISITORS FROM PORTLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rust, Angi and Andi of Portland arrived Friday evening to spend the weekend with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zack Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rust. They left Sunday evening for their home.

FARM BUREAU FURROW

By SCOTT LAMB

Farm Labor Crisis

Administrative bungling in response to political pressure from labor unions has created a farm labor crisis in many sections of the county, resulting inevitably in spoilage and waste of needed food supplies, heavy financial losses for farmers and higher prices for consumers.

The political power of organized labor in the present administration is clear. Officials who normally profess friendship for farmers and consumers have been strangely silent on the present chaotic conditions, resulting from the expiration of the Bracero program last December, which brought about 178,000 Mexican workers into the United States.

Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz can, under PL 414, authorize the entry of foreign workers to fill jobs for which no unemployed American workers can be found, but he and various AFL-CIO groups have argued that there is sufficient domestic labor for such states as Texas, Florida, California and Arizona.

However, growers point out that American workers don't want to do the stoop and reach labor involved in harvesting vegetable and fruit crops.

In addition, the Department of Labor has ruled that if a producer wants to bring in foreign labor under PL 414, he must first offer jobs to domestic workers under new minimum wage terms that are spectacularly higher than a year ago. After April 1, these minimum hourly wages will range from \$1.15 an hour to \$1.40. Under the Mexican labor program, minimum wages that had to be offered to domestic workers were 60 to 70 cents to \$1 an hour.

Some California producers have paid harvest wages that averaged between \$1.40 to \$1.60 an hour, but they balk at paying an hourly minimum of \$1.40 to untrained, incompetent domestic workers.

Several states now face or will be facing the prospect of crops rotting in the fields and orchards.

No one benefits from this situation: organized labor has little to gain from its position; unemployed domestic labor is not interested in this kind of work; union members and other consumers will pay the bill in higher prices, in addition to the obvious burden to agriculture.

The only effective remedy is for farmers and consumers to bring the facts to the attention of congress and the administration, with a demand for corrective action.

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VISIT IN PENDLETON

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Myrick, Russell and Shelley attended the Friday night tournament basketball game at La Grande and then went on to Pendleton where they were weekend guests of their son and daughter - in - law, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Myrick and Vicki.

VISITORS FROM ALASKA

Monday visitors in the home of Mrs. Angie Cook were Mr. and Mrs. Jack French of Anchorage, Alaska. The couple was enroute home after visiting in California.

Reclamation Bureau Names New Engineer

W. Allen McGregor has been named as Snake River Development area engineer by Commissioner of Reclamation Floyd E. Dominy, it was announced in Boise this week by Regional Director Harold T. Nelson of the Bureau of Reclamation.

McGregor has been serving as acting area engineer since the transfer of David L. Crandall to Burley, Idaho, as superintendent of the bureau's Minidoka project.

As area engineer, McGregor will be responsible for all of the Bureau of Reclamation's studies and investigations in the Snake River basin from the Grand Ronde river to its headwaters in Wyoming.

"Mr. McGregor has demonstrated a high degree of engineering skill and judgment in directing, interpreting and evaluating studies of our land and water resources. He is very well qualified for his new position, both from a technical and from a management standpoint," Nelson said.

VISIT FRIENDS AT VALE

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Quinowski and family visited Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wilkins and daughter at Vale.

Potato Acreage and Price Outlook Reviewed by Oregon State University

What's next for potatoes depends largely upon grower reaction to current high prices, points out Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

Hardly a year ago, the potato industry was in its third year of depressed market conditions. Then "mother nature" interfered and prices soared during the current marketing season for last fall's crop.

What happens next depends upon the growers and the weather, Marks emphasizes in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular just published by OSU. Copies are available from county extension offices and the OSU Bulletin Clerk, Corvallis.

Increased Acreage Expected

Odds are that growers will respond by increasing acreage for harvest this fall, Marks observes. Given normal growing conditions, the fall crop then will not only be larger than last fall's short one, but it will also be larger than the winter market can absorb without a drastic reduction from current price levels, he adds.

Acreage guides recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture suggest a seven percent cutback from last year's late sum-

mer and fall acreages. The guides call for a two percent reduction in Malheur county's fall acreage and eight percent in other Oregon counties.

175 Million Sacks Estimated

If fall acreage is reduced as recommended and yields match the 1958-62 average of 194 sacks per acre, the 1965 fall crop would produce around 175 million sacks of potatoes for next winter's market. This is about the same as the low yield 1964 fall crop which enjoyed unusually favorable prices.

There is an off chance that plantings may be tempered, Marks notes, if the late spring crop turns out big enough to cause prices to fall well below February levels.

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